

# Arden Election of the 2014 Board of Assessors

Ballots must be returned by 7:30pm, **Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2013.**

Ballots will be counted at the Buzz Ware Village Center. The public is invited to attend.

**Don't forget to vote:** Ballots have been mailed to all eligible voters in Arden.

Mark your ballot by numbering the candidates in order of preference. Please continue numbering all candidates you feel are qualified for this position. You may number all 14 in the order of your preference. Numbering fewer candidates does not increase the value of your choices.

Please sign the return envelope, and return your ballot, along with the Budget ballot. If you have questions about the election, or need a replacement ballot, contact a member of the Registration Committee at: [registration@theardens.com](mailto:registration@theardens.com)

## Candidates state their positions

Below are statements from candidates running for 7 seats on the Arden Board of Assessors.

**TOM WHEELER** I came here in 1995 because my wife woke up in a dream and said we have to move to Arden. I've been the treasurer of the Arden Craft Shop Museum, and the swim team, and temporarily for the Arden Club, as well as helping rebuild the Moonlight Theater, serving on the BWVC committee, working with Shakespeare and the Ardensingers, and have been on the Board of the AB&L for 10 years. We love Arden. I will vote a continuation of the current system unless strong reason and considerable village sentiment are demonstrated for change. Thank you for your interest and support.

**LARRY WALKER** My principal concern is that the Village of Arden needs to hold a substantial Prudent Reserve. In my opinion, the amount in the Prudent Reserve in recent years has been too low for prudent fiscal emergency or unanticipated needs, and the targeted amount should be increased, even if it means higher Land Rents for a few years. Over the years previous Assessors Boards have chosen to lower the amount in the Prudent Reserve, instead of increasing Land Rents.

I have served on previous Assessors Boards, and I am a former Town Budget Committee Chairman.

**SALLY SHARP** I have lived in Arden since July of 1999, faithfully attended Town Meetings, worked on Avery Task Force, Forestry Sub-Committee, and Community Planning, and am interested in the processes that govern the Village. A wise villager told me everyone should serve on Assessors at least once, so hoping this is my turn.

**WARREN ROSENKRANZ**, an 11-year resident

of Arden, has served on the Board of Assessors for three years, on the BWVC Committee for five years, and helped write the energy grant that added solar panels to the Buzz Ware Village Center. "I have attended the Henry George lecture series and many of the single lectures on his economics. If elected, my intent is to adhere to Georgist principles and ensure that the Arden residents get fair assessment values."

**CHARLES ROBINSON** Having frequently attended the assessors' meetings over the years and having once served as an assessor, I am aware of the many important issues facing the Board of Assessors. I have learned that we must continue to study land rent issues, to consider fair modifications to the current system, and to keep the community informed of the process by which land rent is assessed.

**GARY E. QUINTON** I have lived in Arden for eight years, learning much about our community through personal contacts and public meetings. I believe the "community standard of living" approach makes sense for taxation. I also strongly believe that our community should carry a prudent reserve that is only necessary to handle uncertainty in "outside taxes" (those from New Castle County) and our own budget. As an assessor, I would continue to evaluate our historic ability to spend our budget with judicious thought to the contingency in our "rainy day fund," the Prudent Reserve. As a Six Sigma (Statistics) Master Blackbelt with DuPont, I would bring analytical skills to the Board of Assessors' evaluation and/or alternatives analysis to  
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## Arden Board of Assessors • Candidate Statements *continued*

the upcoming year's assessment, as I did in prior Land Rent Assessments. I continue to be active in the Georgist Gild and am a current member of the Arden Budget Committee. I do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully perform and discharge my duties as Assessor of Arden to the best of my ability, and that I will nearly as possible assess the full rental value of Arden lands as required by the Deed of Trust and Lease of Arden.

**DAVID GERBEC** My name is David Gerbec. I have lived in Arden for 12 years, which is just long enough to begin to understand how this village works. I don't have a personal agenda and, if elected, I will approach my responsibilities as an Assessor with an open mind.

**ELAINE HICKEY** I have been an Arden resident since June 2005. When people I meet ask me where I live and I say "Arden" they always want to know, "What it is like to live in Arden?" Most local Delawareans assume we live a very idyllic life style. To a great extent, they are right, and I would like it to stay that way. I feel that dedicated residents actively participate in the management our community to safeguard that all residents are treated fairly. When I was asked to run for the Board of Assessors I accepted, not only because I am interested in learning the process, but I am also concerned about increasing land rents — just like every leaseholder. Sure, taxes and administrative fees keep going up, but what other factors affect our community standard of living and influence "full rental value?"

I am a former Village of Arden Secretary (2009-2011) and am currently a member of the Registration Committee. I have been active in the Arden Club: compiled and edited the Arden Club Calendar (2006-2009), served on the Arden Club Board (2010-2011) and am an active member of the Shakespeare Gild.

**BROOKE BOVARD** I'm Brooke Bovard. I'm a native Ardenite and raising my family here, and I've had the honor of serving on the Board of Assessors for most of the last 10 years. I am also the founding mother, and first gildmistress, of the Georgist Gild. My leasehold is medium sized, and on Harvey Road.

This is my take on what's important in a member of the Board of Assessors. What's MOST important is a sense of perspective, and a willingness to get on with the business of governing. People have all kinds of notions about what method we should use to assess. They have all kinds of ways to weigh data, all sources for data (including plain imagination) and a wide variety of political or other agendas. That's how people work, and it's great in a debate society, or an academic setting. But the work the assessors do impacts, directly, the families in this town. We need a Board of Assessors who understands that, who respects the needs of our neighbors to have an affordable, predictable, fairly administered assessment, so that ordinary people can plan their budgets and do what they need to. We have, over the years, had highly ideological assessors, assessors who served without ever signing the assessment, assessors who never came to meetings, and assessors who proposed an alternate assessment when the votes didn't go their way. Please send assessors who will work, reach a reasonable, real-world group product, and keep the town running, without a lot of drama and grandstanding. That's my priority.

**BILL THEIS, DENIS O'REGAN, CLAY RIDINGS, JOE DEL TUFO and PETER COMPO** had not responded by the Oct. 6 deadline.

Thank you to all the candidates for their willingness to serve the community.

Prepared by Cecilia Vore, chair, Arden Registration Committee 10/6/2013